

Life History Notes on *Parabacillus coloradus* Scud.

On October 20, 1959, an adult female phasmid, *Parabacillus coloradus* Scud., was collected just a few yards north of the Brigham Young University stadium fence on a ragweed stem. It was reddish-brown, resembling the color of the stem, and was two and one-half inches in length.

After a few days in captivity it laid several black eggs the size of a rye kernel. The eggs were kept in a pint bottle until January 3, 1960, when the first of these hatched. The young phasmid, just a few hours after hatching, was one-half of an inch in length. This was quite surprising because of the small size of the egg. The body was yellowish-brown with a dorsal brownish-black strip running from the head to the caudal end. It appeared to be quite slow in its motions and often remained quiet in one place for a long time.

Comstock reports that in the common northern species *Diaperomera femorata* the eggs are dropped late in the summer and so do not hatch until the following spring, and that in some cases remain until the second spring before they hatch.

The eggs of this phasmid were laid on October 25, 1959, and just two and one-half months later they began to hatch. This was probably due to the warm conditions in which they were kept.

The young phasmid was kept alive in a terrestrial aquarium with a ragweed habitat. It lived for ten days in this environment before death.

—Wayne E. Saunders, Graduate Student in Entomology.